


COMMANDING GENERAL
1ST MARINE AIRCRAFT WING
Suicide Prevention Policy
1 August 2011



The number of Marines who have died by suicide in recent years is shocking and unacceptable. As leaders, we must take action to prevent suicide. It requires the awareness of all personnel, uniformed and civilian, at every level. This issue has my personal attention, and the Corps has multiple programs at work to reverse this trend. We must identify at-risk Marines before it is too late and take advantage of the myriad of resources available to assist them.

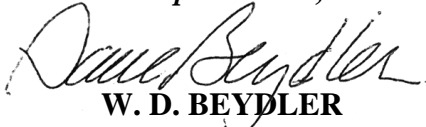
Studies have shown that regardless of duty station, deployment, or duty status, the primary stressors associated with Marine suicides are problems in romantic relationships, physical health, and work-related issues, such as poor performance and job dissatisfaction, and pending legal or administrative action. Multiple stressors are typically present in a suicide or suicide attempt.

We must be ever watchful for signs of thoughts or behaviors associated with suicide, exercise our leadership skills and intervene. Sometimes it is as simple as asking "What's wrong?" or "Are you OK?" Other times we must take it upon ourselves to ensure that an "at-risk" Marine is promptly escorted to a behavioral health professional or chaplain. The key is to get involved.

I charge each of you to become personally involved in the lives of your Marines and Sailors; know their hardships and challenges, whether financial, relationships or career setbacks. Your personal intervention is an important factor in preventing suicide and ensuring personnel who need help get it quickly. I further challenge you to remove the stigma attached to seeking behavioral health services. Your vigilance is key to early detection of suicide risk. Suicide prevention directly contributes to mission readiness and the well-being of our Marines, Sailors, civilians, and family members.

The 1st Marine Aircraft Wing Suicide Awareness and Prevention Coordinator is CDR Terry C. Gordon, terry.c.gordon1@usmc.mil or DSN 315-645-7202. For further help or additional information, contact him or anyone in your chain of command, or visit the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing Suicide Prevention webpage at the following link for additional resources: <http://www.marines.mil/unit/1stairwing/Pages/SuicidePrevention.aspx>

We are Marines. We never fail to take care of our own.

Semper Fidelis,

W. D. BEYDLER
Major General, U. S. Marine Corps
Commanding General
1st Marine Aircraft Wing